



Michael Baer demonstrates the "Phonecommunicator," on loan to Gallaudet from IBM. It may represent a major technological breakthrough in telephone accessibility for deaf people.

'Phonecommunicator' may improve phone access for deaf consumers

A device that could prove to be a major leap toward improved telephone accessibility for deaf people is being used at Gallaudet.

The "Phonecommunicator," by IBM, permits deaf people to communicate with hearing people who have ordinary touchtone telephones. To "talk," the hearing person spells out a message, using the letters that correspond to the keys on the phone. Even though each key has three letters, the Phonecommunicator is able to sort out all possible word combinations and print out the correct message on its computer screen.

On the other end of the line, the message that the deaf person key-boards into the Phonecommunicator is transposed to the hearing party in the form of a mechanized voice. When a connection is initially made between a Phonecommunicator user and a telephone user, a recorded message explains to the hearing person that the caller is deaf, then gives instructions on how to use the touch-tone dial to communicate.

"Technologically speaking, this is definitely a breakthrough" for deaf people using the telephone, said Michael Baer, supervisor of Human Resource Information Systems in Gallaudet's Personnel Office. Baer, along with the President's Office, is testing the Phonecommunicator.

Baer said that the major advantage of the device is that it eliminates the need for a third party relay system or an interpreter between TDD and non-TDD users. Other pluses are that the Phonecommunicator allows the deaf person to type upper- and lower-case letters and to view an entire computer screen's worth of conversation at a time, instead of reading line-by-line

on a TDD.

Although its advantages far outweigh its disadvantages, the Phonecommunicator has room for improvements, Baer said. For instance, there were hearing callers who "panicked" when they heard the computerized voice at the other end of the line and hung up. Hearing people say that the instructions are too long, and that it is slow to type into a touchtone phone. And with a price tag of \$2,500, it is expensive. (For IBM personal computer owners, the Phonecommunicator modem can be purchased for about \$600.) But Baer is confident that IBM will iron out these bugs.

IBM began research and development of the Phonecommunicator five years ago and last year, began loaning the devices around the country. Gallaudet President I. King Jordan, and Dr. Robert Davila, who at that time was vice president for Pre-College Programs, were two of the recipients.

This spring, IBM decided to loan the University additional Phonecommunicators. Baer was asked to test the equipment by Dr. Judith Harkins, director of the University's Technology Assessment Program.

Baer will submit a report to IBM with feedback about the Phonecommunicator and ways he feels that it could be improved.

Will he miss it when it's gone?

"Yes indeed," said Baer, "and I will buy one when improved versions come."

In the meantime, if anyone would like a demonstration, call Baer at x5288 (TDD) for an appointment. For information about the Phonecommunicator, call 1-800-426-3388 (V) or x3383 (TDD) and ask for stock number 6450618, or write to IBM's National Support Center for Persons with Disabilities, P.O. Box 2150, Atlanta, GA 30055.

Reaccreditation provides opportunity to improve all aspects of University

Gallaudet is in the midst of preparing for a major re-accreditation review which, according to a faculty member heading the planning for the self-study, will provide a perfect chance for self-inspection of the University's goals.

The April 1991 review will be conducted by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA), an arm of the Commission on Higher Education and the major accreditation body for schools of all grade levels in this region. The review represents "a chance for us to grow," said Dr. Richard Lytle, chairman of Committee S (Academic Quality) of the faculty. "It's also an opportunity for everyone on campus to ask, 'Are we doing the best we can do?'" said Lytle.

The MSA team looks at all aspects of a school's programs every 10 years and then does a smaller review five years later to make sure that the goals of the 10-year study are being met.

Since the spring of 1989, 14 sub-committees, made up of faculty, staff, and students, have been reviewing Gallaudet's goals and programs in all areas. The data that they collect will go into a report to be submitted to the MSA in February. The report is being coordinated by Dr. William Moses, chairman of the Theatre Arts Department and special assistant to the provost while the self-study is being conducted. Next April, an MSA team will spend three to four days here to verify the information in the report. An MSA official will then contact President I. King Jordan to inform him whether

the University is re-accredited, or re-accredited with conditions.

Lytle said that MSA's intent is not for the school being reviewed to feel threatened, but rather for the experience to be a positive one. "The spirit of MSA is self-study, not some outside group that is evaluating if you are doing a good job or not," said Lytle. He explained that MSA operates on the theory that a school evaluates itself, then sticks to its goals and philosophies. "It's an honest evaluation of how you are doing and how you can do better."

Lytle added, "I don't think the accreditation itself is nearly as important as the process involved. If we had been doing five things poorly and we improved them, I would see the accreditation process as successful."

He also said that MSA does not operate on a strict 'pass-fail' basis. "It might not be that a school didn't pass, but that MSA would make suggestions to the school and then come back and look at it again in a couple of years." He said that in Gallaudet's 1981 review, "we did very well."

Also, MSA's standards for re-accreditation vary depending on each school's philosophy and mission. For example, Rochester Institute of Technology and Harvard would not be evaluated the same, because one emphasizes a technical program of academic study and the other a liberal arts program of academic study, said Lytle. "Our mission [at Gallaudet] is to provide a liberal arts education for deaf and hard of hearing students. Their evaluation of us will be, do we fulfill our mission? Do we do a good job and meet the needs of our students?" He

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Friday graduation set for MSSD

The Model Secondary School for the Deaf's 20th graduating class will participate in commencement exercises this Friday, June 15, in the Gallaudet Field House. Approximately 77 seniors will receive their diplomas at the 10 a.m. ceremony.

The guest speaker for the 1990 graduating ceremony will be Mervin Garretson, acting director of the National Association of the Deaf. Garretson was MSSD's first principal.

A breakfast will be held for graduates and their guests, and MSSD faculty and staff, from 8 to 9:30 a.m. in the Ely Center Multipurpose Room.

Videotapes of the commencement can be ordered at the Field House immediately after the ceremony.

At 8 p.m. on the day before graduation, a Senior Graduation Night party, featuring a live band, will be held for MSSD seniors and their guests in the school gym.



Associate professor of Government Mary Malzkahn receives the 1990 President's Distinguished Faculty Award from University President I. King Jordan.



Special Assistant to the President Jack Gannon thanks Gallaudet volunteers for the 10,500 hours of service they gave in 1989 at a recent recognition day program. Special awards went to volunteers Dave Peikoff (19 years), May Curtis (10 years), and Isadore Zisman (9 years).

Announcements

KDES' annual Awards Ceremony will be held this Tuesday, June 12, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the school's auditorium. On the following day, KDES will honor 21 students at its yearly Recognition Program at 1:15 p.m. in the MSSD auditorium; the guest speaker will be Ruby Frye Hughes, who retired last year as program supervisor for the KDES upper school.

The summer luncheon of the Metro Washington Chapter of the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association will be held in "Ole Jim" on Friday, June 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dr. Robert Davila, assistant secretary of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Office of Special Education, U.S. Department of Education, will speak on "The Future of Programs for the Deaf." The cost of the luncheon is \$11, and payment must be made in advance. Checks must be made payable to MWC-ADARA and mailed in care of MWC-ADARA Treasurer, National Health Care Foundation for the Deaf, 3722 12th St. NE, Washington, DC 20017. The event is co-sponsored by Gallaudet's Office of Student Special Services.

A support service for deaf personal computer users of WordPerfect has been set up through the WordPerfect Corporation. Deaf people having any questions about WordPerfect can call 801-222-6050 (TDD). To request that the number be made toll-free, write to Pete Peterson or Alan Ashton, WordPerfect Corp., 1555 N. Technology Way, Orem, Utah 84057.

The June 17 broadcast of "Deaf Mosaic," which can be seen every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on the Discovery Channel, will feature: captioning in Australia; Rochester's new deaf television program, "Hey, Listen"; deaf artists in America; Tony-award-winning deaf actress Phyllis Frelich; and a "Mosaic Memoirs" segment on deaf people winning the right to drive.

The Child Development Center still has a few openings for its summer program, particularly in the two-year-old class. Interested parents may call Gail Solit, x5350.

Former chaplain Pokorny dies

The Rev. Dan Pokorny, who was Gallaudet University's Lutheran chaplain from 1967 to 1978, died of cancer May 30, 1990, at age 53 at his home in St. Louis, Mo.

A memorial service was held June 2 at the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, where Pokorny spent his last years training ministers to work with deaf and hard of hearing people. He was buried in Queens, New York—his childhood home. Pokorny's wife, Pat, also joined his D.C.-area friends at a June 5 service at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Greenbelt, Md.

Speaking of Pokorny's work in the deaf community, Nancy Ann Grandel, director of Gallaudet's Community Counseling Services for the Hearing Impaired and once a co-worker of Pokorny's, said, "He lived double the amount of years in the years that he had. . . . He will be missed."

Pokorny's friends at Gallaudet are planning a fall memorial service.

Four summer programs available for professionals in field of deafness

Gallaudet University is sponsoring four different institutes this summer designed for professionals who work with deaf people, from infants through adults.

The Institute on Thinking Skills and the Hearing Impaired Learner, to be held June 24-29, is for teachers and supervisors of deaf and hard of hearing students from upper elementary through adult levels. It will focus on how to improve the thinking of students and how to find new ways of developing their intellectual potential.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Summer Institute in Mathematics, to be held June 24-Aug. 3, is a graduate-level program for teachers of deaf and hard of hearing students at the elementary, junior high, and high school levels. The program is designed to improve the mathematics competency of teachers of deaf students. NSF provides funding for the program and pays expenses of participants.

Education of Multihandicapped Hearing Impaired (MHHI) students, an institute designed for teachers of this population, is being offered in six different modules, on July 16-20, July 23-27, and July 30-Aug. 3. The modules will focus on language arts development, emotional or behavioral problems, trends in education of MHHI students, assessment and remediation of learning disabilities, language arts problems, and health risks for teachers.

Family-Focused Early Intervention for Hearing Impaired Infants is being held for professionals who need current in-

formation and specialized skills for working with hearing impaired infants, from birth through age 3, and their families. The institute will also contain six modules and will be offered during the same weeks as the MHHI institute. Subject areas include impact of deafness on development, play, developmental assessment, early intervention, empowering families, and implementing PL 99-457.

All of the programs are being offered through the Office of Extension and Summer Programs in the College for Continuing Education. For information about the thinking skills institute, call Dr. David Martin, x5520, and for information about the National Science Foundation mathematics institute, call Taya Levine, x5629.

Classified Ads

CLASSIFIED ADS are printed free as a service to Gallaudet faculty and staff. They must be submitted in writing only to *On the Green*, MSSD, Room G-37. Ads may be run for a maximum of two weeks, if requested and if space permits. Ads received by June 15 will appear in the June 25 issue.

WANTED: Babysitter for deaf baby boy, 8:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m. Mon.-Fri., Aug. 27, 1990-June 14, 1991. Call Jen or Wilton, x5310 days, or x5413 eves.

WANTED: Interested English tutor, will negotiate hourly fee. Call Beverly, 277-3462 (TDD).

FOR SALE: Red Univega 15-speed mountain bicycle, \$325. Call Beverly, 277-3462 (TDD).

FOR SALE: Minicomp II TDD w/vinyl carrying case, exc. cond., \$85. Call Barb, x5007 before June 14.

FOR RENT: Large sunny room in modern highrise, walk to Silver Spring Metro, avail. immediately, \$380/mo. inc. everything. Call 310-1037 (V).

FOR RENT: Furnished room in Fort Washington, Md., no kids, nonsmoker preferred, security deposit required, price neg. Call Jackie, x3011.

FOR RENT: Sublet room opposite Kendall Green, \$165/mo. inc. util. Call Kathy, x5245 (V), or x5226 (TDD).

FOR RENT: Nice, spacious house in Greenbelt, Md., 5 BRs, 3 1/2 baths, W/D, AC, DW, 2-car garage, fireplace, w/w carpet, close to 95 and 295, no smokers or pets, ideal for family or group to share, security deposit required, avail. Sept. 1, \$1,700/mo. plus util. Call Marybeth, 345-5788 (TDD).

WANTED: House- and cat-sitter for townhouse in Capitol Hill area Aug. 1-31, free util., central AC, 5 blocks from Metro and 2 blocks from bus. Call x5160 or 547-1972 (TDD).

FOR SALE: Weider weight bench w/leg curl, padded backrest; 32 cast iron weights (8 10-lb., 12 5-lb., 12 3-lb.); 2 5-ft. solid steel bars w/chrome sleeves, 4 dumbbell handles, \$150. Call Rosemary, x5115.

FOR SALE: U.S. Air 1-way ticket to Miami, Fla., Thurs., June 13, 8:50 a.m., \$100. Call Nancy, x5928 (V), or x5466 (V/TDD), or 596-5081 (V) eves.

FOR SALE: '78 Toyota Celica GT Liftback, 5-speed, AC, AM/FM, loaded, 112K mi., reliable, \$990/BO. Call Del, x5068, or 998-0470 (TDD).

WANTED: Nonsmoker to share townhouse in Bowie, Md., 25-min. drive to Kendall Green, must like ferret, \$250/mo. inc. utilities. Call 344-2389 (TDD).

Job Openings

Some of the advertised positions may already be filled. The list below includes only new staff and faculty openings and does not represent all jobs available. To get a recorded message describing the complete list, call x5358 or x5359 (TDD).
RESEARCH TECHNICIAN: Biology Department



MSSD students, faculty, and staff exercise on May 9, along with one million students across the nation, to celebrate Fitness and Sports Month.



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